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Reply to Office Action of: 9/5/03
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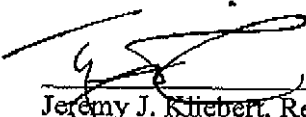
REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitation that the second reaction stage produces at least a final liquid product. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph [0033] of the instant specification. Claims 1 and 12 have also been amended to include the limitation that the final liquid product from the second reaction stage is reacted in at least one additional reaction stage selected from the group consisting of an aromatics hydrogenation stage and a hydrocracking reaction stage. Support for this amendment can be found in original claims 10 and 20 cancelled in the current amendment.

Based on the preceding amendments, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw all rejections and pass this application to allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' attorney should the Examiner wish to discuss this application further.

Respectfully submitted:

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